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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 6517**
Toshiyuki MAJIMA et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2005_0634A
Serial No. 10/532,135 : Group Art Unit 3724
Filed October 6, 2005 : Examiner Jason D. Prone
PUNCHING UNIT

ELECTION OF INVENTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 21, 2007, Applicants in the above-referenced U.S. patent application hereby elect Species B with traverse. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 correspond to the elected species.

The Examiner's rationale behind the position that there is a lack of unity of invention is that there is a rectangular-tubular main frame with the motor in Species A and that Species B incorporates a non-rectangular-tubular main frame, with associated items either being above or below the punch heads in the respective species.

The Examiner then goes on to allege that the species do not relate to a single general inventive concept because the species lack the same or corresponding special technical feature as seen above. However, the reference to a special technical feature is a discussion of what is contained in the claims. In fact all of the claims have the same common special technical feature as set forth in independent claim 1. Nor are the aspects of whether the associated parts are disposed above or below the punch head, or whether the main frame is or is not a rectangular-tubular main frame, a feature of any the claims.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's election requirement is improper under PCT unity of invention rules, and should be withdrawn. Examination of all of the claims pending in this application is respectfully requested.

An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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